

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Page 1, please amend paragraph 0002 as follows:**

The present invention relates to an inertization ~~devide~~ device and method for lowering the risk of fire in an enclosed protected area, in which the oxygen content in the protected area is maintained ~~with~~ in a defined control range for a defined period at a control concentration that lies below an operating concentration, by feeding an oxygen-displacing gas from a primary source.